

the depression at the sides naturally follows, but does not, as said, assist the raising; and this raising can only be supposed to be done, by the moon's rays of attraction being concentrated in one focus immediately underneath, or by their being more powerful there than everywhere else; and in either of these cases she would as strongly attract within above the Mediterranean or Baltic, as when above any portion of the open sea. And this would, moreover, be less striking and wonderful to us than "that the whole of the waters should be equally elevated," particularly when considered that this equal elevation at the same period is not perceptible at the shore, nor that the waters are elastic and capable of such an elevation.*

W. ADOLPH.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF THE ARTS OF IRELAND.

WE need not tell our readers that we view with interest every endeavour to improve the arts and manufactures of the sister kingdom, and to advance her interests. We have from time to time alluded to the intended industrial exhibition of Ireland, and are glad to find that everything promises for it a successful issue. It will be confined exclusively to Irish productions, and will embrace painting and sculpture by Irish artists. The architects have not been behindhand; Sir Thomas Deane being one of the most active members of the committee. The building in Cork is being rapidly proceeded with, and will be inaugurated by the Lord Lieutenant on the 10th of June. It has been determined, in order to carry out more fully the purposes of the National Exhibition, that a series of lectures shall be given in connection with it, to be called Exhibition Lectures, and devoted to the illustration of Irish art, industry, and science. Mr. Rooney is organising cheap and ready means of transit.

PIPE DRAINS & BRICK SEWERS.

I FEAR a "Ratepayer" (who may be a member of a Local Board of Health) will find very few professional men ready to respond to his call upon them to volunteer their experience and opinion upon the much-vexed question of brick and pipe sewers, more particularly as that professional opinion is their stock in trade, and ought not, in common justice to self, to be scattered abroad, *pro bono publico*, any more than the stock in trade of the "Ratepayer." But so it is at the present day: for the want of a better understanding amongst professional men, public Boards resort to all sorts of stratagems to get opinions gratuitously, or almost gratuitously, and act upon them as suits their interest or caprice: in fact, they constitute themselves the judges in matters of taste, as well as in suitability and stability of scientific works (*from whom there is no appeal*), frequently in direct opposition to the well digested and developed plans of the experienced engineer and architect. Surely, this state of things requires a radical change, which might be effected by a combination of professional men.

Why should professional men gratuitously volunteer opinions for the Local Boards of Health, when they have the benefit of their local officers, some of whom, I presume, are engineers, and the central authority with a staff of officers, likewise qualified engineers, to whom an appeal can at any time be made? But it appears that the discussion on the drainage of Richmond at the old school, the Institution of Civil Engineers, has so shaken the confidence of the Local Boards of Health in their officer and the Central Board, that they are now seeking information from other parties; and I can just imagine many professional men are similarly troubled as myself with hosts of letters from members and engineers of Local Boards, seeking information upon the very subject mooted by your correspondent, although, *par excellence*, they are the men that sanctioned the schemes laid down by the inspector of the General Board, and were deputed to carry out their somewhat questionable plans. I think the question of brick or

pipe sewers resolves itself into this, that we should avoid extremes. I would not adopt the *cloaca maxima* of ancient Rome or modern London, generally, nor the *fine drawn* 4-inch pipe of the Board of Health for sewers of the streets of towns. I think both systems may be usefully employed. I would recommend a system to be laid down upon the principle of the "happy medium;" neither too large for the ordinary necessities of a town, nor so finely calculated by mathematical formulae, the deductions from which should be the diameter of a pipe just sufficient to take the ordinary drainage of the houses, and not even a dew-drop more.

I think it is equally absurd to require the streets of towns to be drained with pipes scarcely large enough for a single water-closet, as to require drains to be made large enough to admit a man; because the latter principle, to be fully carried out, must extend to the private drains leading to the houses, and would be adopting Mr. Gwilt's recommendation recorded in the Blue Books, and which afforded some amusement at the time, although it is evident, from present appearances, "a change is about to come over the spirit of our dreams."

I am also of opinion that objections apply, not only to the plan of drainage of the Board of Health, but also other recommendations contained in their report, which may form the subject of other papers to be read at the ancient Institution of Civil Engineers at a future period, more particularly as the subjects alluded to are matters of great moment to every town; and, in consequence of a difference of opinion even amongst the inspectors of the Boards of Health themselves, towns are "doing and undoing," just in the system of old, which the Central Board of Health undertook to reform and regenerate. B. H.

EARL DE GREY'S RECEPTION OF THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

ON Friday, the 14th, the Earl de Grey, as President of the Royal Institute of Architects, received the whole of that body at his house, in St. James's-square, and invited a large number of the nobility and men distinguished in art and science to meet them. The members of the present and past council dined with his Lordship previously; and almost immediately after dinner H. R. H. Prince Albert arrived, and remained some time discoursing, amongst other matters, on the proposed restoration of the royal tombs at Westminster, with those who have taken prominent part in the inquiry. The president and officers of the Royal Society, the Society of Antiquaries, Royal Academy, Institute of Civil Engineers, British Archaeological Association, Archaeological Institute, Architectural Association, and of various other bodies, received cards, and the assemblage was in consequence very numerous. A large number of ladies were amongst the guests (the distinguishing feature of Lord de Grey's brilliant evenings), and the tables were filled with sketches and drawings.

We have not a list of all who were present, but note down some whom we noticed. The Marquis of Lansdowne, Earl Grey, Earl of Claremont, Earl of Carlisle, Lord Ellesmere, Lord Palmerston, Sir John Herschel, Sir Henry Ellis, Sir W. Ross, Sir W. Newton, Messrs. Donaldson, Iman, Mocatta, Cockerell, Fowler, Scoles, C. Nelson, Bunning, Bury, Hesketh, Jennings, Papworth, Woodthorpe, Godwin, Knowles, Mylne, Roberts, Ferrey, Garling, Scott, Sancton Wood, Planche, Pettigrew, J. Wood, Landseer, R.A.; J. P. Knight, R.A.; E. M. Ward, A.R.A.; C. H. Smith; Pickersgill, R.A.; Habershon, Clarke, Kendall; Dr. Dickson, E. Hawkins, H. Warren, Fahey, Waring, J. Martin, Fogg, Sir Charles Barry, R.A. &c.

CONVERSAZIONI, &c.—Lord Londesborough has issued cards for a conversazione on the 29th.—Lord Rosse's third conversazione to the Royal Society will take place this (Saturday) evening, the 22nd.—Lord Mahon has a dinner party to meet the Council of the Society of Antiquaries on the 1st of June.

ANCIENT TIMBER TOWN-HALLS.

JOHN ABEL.*

THE town-hall in the city of Hereford is a timber structure built upon twenty-seven pillars, and was originally a very handsome building, but was many years since denuded of its upper story, in which the fourteen different trading companies of the city transacted their business. It was erected by the celebrated John Abel, in the reign of James I. Prior to the erection of the present county hall, the assizes were held in this building.

The town-hall of Leominster, or Buttercross, as it is frequently called by the inhabitants, was erected in the year 1633, by the above-named architect: it stands upon twelve oak pillars, and was originally ornamented with a variety of curious carvings, and the shields of arms of those who contributed towards the expense of its erection, but which have long since vanished. Around the building, just above the pillars, was inscribed the following sentences, but portions of which only now remain. On the south side:—

"Vive Deo gratias, totum mundo tumultus, crimine mundatus, semper transire paratus."

On the east side—

"Where justice reigns, there virtue flows. But cito, si aut bene vive ut post vivas. As columns to support the fabric of a building; so noble gentry do support the honour of a state."

On the north side—

"In memoria eterna eris Justus, 1663."

In the year 1793, this hall underwent very considerable repairs, more properly called spoliation, by taking down the gables, and with them the curious carvings, shields of arms, &c. which must have greatly destroyed a picturesque effect. It contains a clock, and a surmounted by a cupola, in which is a bell, whereon the hours strike.

The town-halls of Brecon, Kingston, and Weobly, and probably others, of which at present I can give no particulars, were built by the same person. Mr. Abel being in Hereford when that city was besieged in 1645, was of great service by constructing mills to grind corn for the use of the inhabitants and soldiers confined therein, for which Charles I. afterwards conferred upon him the title of one of his Majesty's carpenters.

In Sarnesfield churchyard, in the county of Hereford, is a monument consisting of the effigies of himself and his two wives, with the emblems of his profession, executed by his own hands after he reached the patriarchal age of ninety years: it has the following inscription, being his own composition:—

"This craggy stone a covering is for an architect's bed,
That lofty buildings raised high, yet now lies low his head:
His line and rule, so death concludes, are locked up in store.
Build they who list, or they who wist, for he can build no more."

His house of clay could hold no longer.
May heaven's joy frame him a stronger.

JOHN ABEL.

Vive ut vivas in vitam eternam."

I believe Sarnesfield was his native place: he died there in 1694, having attained the great age of ninety-seven years.

J. B. WHITBORNE.

IMPROVED LUBRICATOR FOR MACHINERY.

—A patent has recently been obtained by M. B. Coquatrix for a lubricator, consisting of a box containing the oil, from the bottom of which a tube descends directly on to the bearings, and on the top of this tube a box is cast with a screw thread turned in it, into which a thumb key, with a conical point, is screwed, so that the annular aperture formed in the tube by the insertion of the key can be instantly closed when the machinery is at rest. By raising the key by unscrewing, the conical point serves to regulate the supply from one to as many drops per minute as may be required. In fitting on this lubricator, it is only necessary to take off the old and insert the patent one instead.

* The following is from *Notes and Queries*, the editor of which continues rigorously his useful course.

† This hall had similar inscriptions to those of Leominster.

* To be continued.